

PATENT

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AUG 29 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-29, 31-34, 36-38, 40-42, 44, 45, 49 and 50 are pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 14-16, 18-29, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 49 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,680,727 to Butler et al.

Butler has a common assignee with the present application. The Examiner has indicated, however, that this rejection may be overcome by a showing under a 37 CFR 1.132 declaration. Applicants, through their patent attorney, hereby file a 37 CFR 1.132 declaration that any invention disclosed but not claimed in Butler was derived by the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another". Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

The remaining claims are either allowed or are allowable.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 08/29/2006

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Customer No.: 23696